

[7th March, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

(b) to (d) Immediate rescue and relief operations were undertaken by the Kandla Port Trust on war-footing and partial functioning of the Port was resumed from 3rd February, 2001, with some berths operating at the full capacity. It is too early to indicate timeframe for normal functioning of the Port.

Assessment of loss to Kandla Port

1080. SHRI SURESH KALMADI:

SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to State:

(a) whether Government had sent a team of experts to assess the damage caused to Kandla Port due to recent earthquake;

(b) if so, the details of losses suffered at Kandla Port as a result of earthquake;

(c) the number of days the functioning of Kandla Port remained paralysed due to earthquake and losses suffered as a result thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to streamline the functioning of the Kandla Port?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Kandla Port has suffered damages to its permanent structures, such as cargo jetties, oil jetties, warehouses, godowns, water supply, oil pipelines, administrative office building at Gandhidham and the Port & Customs Building at Kandla, boundary walls of residential and non-residential buildings, roads & storm water drains, electrical installation / equipment, quarters, etc., due to the devastating earthquake.

(c) and (d) Immediate rescue and relief operations were undertaken by the Kandla Port Trust on war-footing and partial functioning of the Port was resumed from 3rd February, 2001.

Infrastructure status to shipbuilding and ship-repair industry

1081. SHRI JESU CHAND: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to State:

(a) whether Government propose to accord infrastructure status to the shipbuilding and ship-repair industry for attracting investment for modernisation and capacity augmentation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Government have reviewed the functioning of subsidy scheme for shipbuilding; and

(e) if so, the progress made by shipping industry since inception of the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) The Apex Committee on Shipbuilding constituted by this Ministry, had recommended grant of infrastructure status to the Shipbuilding and Ship repair industry, Action to consider the recommendation of the Committee has already been initiated.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Hindustan Shipyard Limited obtained orders for the construction of one Bulk Carrier and one Passenger-cum-Cargo vessel; and cochin shipyard Limited also obtained order for the construction of one crude Oil Tanker since the inception of the scheme.

Issue of bonds by IWAI

1082. SHRI K.M. SAIFULLAH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Inland Waterways Authority of India is going to issue bonds for mobilising funds;

(b) if so, when this issue is likely to be opened for subscription; and

(c) what will be the conditions attached to the bonds to be issued and the total amount of the issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The issue of bonds necessitate amendment to the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI), Act, 1985 so as to statutorily empower IWAI to borrow and mobilise funds from the market by raising bonds. An amendment Bill to amend the IWAI Act, 1985 is likely to be introduced in the Parliament in the current session. Hence the opening of the issue for subscription would be considered after amendment to the Act.